

UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS: THE MISSION OF JESUS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

UNSTOPPABLE "Power" - Rev. Jeremy Bates

Sermon Notes: February 15, 2026

Text: Acts 1 & 2

The book of Acts is full of history, but it's not a history lesson; it's a launchpad. It's the story of what happens when Jesus entrusts His mission to His followers and fills them with power from heaven. Fear turns into boldness. Waiting turns into witness. A small, uncertain group becomes an unstoppable movement. This message launches our UNSTOPPABLE series by taking us back to the moment everything changed—when the Holy Spirit filled the church and the mission of Jesus exploded beyond anything the disciples expected.

The Book of Acts:

- Author: Luke - A Sequel to his gospel // Date: Approx. 80 AD // Time Span: Approx. 35 yrs

THE MISSION OF JESUS CONTINUES THROUGH A SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, UNSTOPPABLE CHURCH

Unstoppable Church: Matthew 16:18

"Our challenges today aren't unprecedented, they're just our turn to trust God's presence, purpose and power."

"Instead of renewal which would form them as a restored Israel waiting on God to become their king...they would experience a renewal which would form them as a whole restored humanity celebrating the fact God was becoming king of the whole world." NT Wright

The Spread of the Gospel through Acts: From Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the Earth:

Stage 1: Acts 6 – Jerusalem // Stage 2: Acts 9 – Judea & Samaria

Stage 3: Acts 12 – Antioch & Syria // Stage 4: Acts 13 – Asia

Stage 5: Acts 16 – Asia & Europe / Stage 6: Acts 19 – Ephesus // Stage 7: Acts 28 – Rome

- **You will** be baptized with the Holy Spirit
- **You will** receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
- **You will** be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere!

Saved People are Sent People

- God never sends us without first empowering us
- Empowerment comes before assignment
- Peter, who had stepped back in times past now steps forward (Acts 2:14)
- Witnesses don't create evidence or convince anyone, they just tell what they've seen/heard

Baptism of the HOLY SPIRIT:

- 1) You're not alone - Spiritual Closeness (Acts 1:5)
- 2) You're not on your own - Spiritual Strength (Acts 1:8)
 - Holy Spirit, FILL ME, SHOW ME, USE ME!



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

We've all volunteered for things that ended up being way bigger or more involved than we signed up for: what funny or frustrating scenarios have you gotten yourself into? Did they end up being rewarding, or just exasperating?

How could these scenarios help us relate to what the disciples must have thought as Jesus was ascending to heaven?

Study & Discussion:

Read Acts 1:1-11, 2:1-41

1) What resonated with you from the sermon? What challenged or surprised you? What questions do you have?

2) Some of us weren't raised in church, and others of us were raised in different theological traditions: Some where you heard a lot about the Holy Spirit, some, where you hardly heard anything about the Holy Spirit. What has been your past experience with teaching about the Holy Spirit?

3) Pastor Jer said that "Saved people are sent people." What emotions does that statement stir up in you—excitement, pressure, resistance, motivation? Why?

4) What fears, stereotypes, or past experiences might make it hard for people today to be open to the Holy Spirit?

5) Jesus promised power before assignment (Acts 1:8). How does that change the way you think about obedience, calling, or stepping into something new?

6) Peter didn't argue or debate—he simply testified to what he had seen and experienced. What has God done in your life that you could naturally "witness" about?

7) The Holy Spirit brings closeness and strength. Which one do you feel you need most right now—and why?

Prayer:

